

# ZIMBABWE: Matabeleland Sojourn

Bicycle Africa ©1999 (subject to change)

Program: Small group, self-contained bicycle tour of Matopos, Hwange and Victoria Falls National Parks, with a whitewater raft and canoe trip, game drive, cultural programs, visits to historic and rock art sites, schools, a rural technology training center and organic farm.

Cycling Conditions: 620 km, 385 miles, 90% paved, 10% dirt roads, and rolling terrain.

Weather conditions: Highs in the 80sF (20sC), lows in the 30sF (0-5C), little chance of rain.

Tour Price (lodging, two meals/day, safari & rafting fees and more): \$1290 plus airfare.

Code: Lighting: E - electric, K - kerosene or candle; Climate: AC - Air conditioned, F - Fan; Bath: S - Shower or bath tub, B - Bucket bath, h - hot water, T - Toilet, L - Latrine, sc - Self-contained.

- DAY 01 Mon July 26 BULAWAYO (elev. 1350m). Meet at hotel @ 10 a.m. (The hotel is 22km, 13mi the airport and 3km, 2mi, from the railroad station.)  
Points of interest: Natural History Museum, Railway Museum, and Art Museum, Craft markets, Centennial gardens.  
Accommodations: hotel (E, scSh, T) Dinner: restaurant
- DAY 02 Tue July 27 Bulawayo to KHAMI (SOkm, 30mi) (elev. 1400m). Begin cycle tour a couple of stops/walking tours.  
Points of interest: bicycle factory, Kharni ruins (capitol of Torwa State) and high-density suburb.  
Accommodations: special arrangements (E, Sh, T, dorm) Dinner: dining hall
- DAY 03 Wed July 28 Khami to FIGTREE (30km, 18mi) (elev. 1380). We visit a training center in the morning & cycle later.  
Points of interest: training center (appropriate technology, organic farming, and day care), Cyrene Mission  
Accommodations: hotel (E, scSh, scT) Dinner: hotel
- DAY 04 Thu July 29 Figtree to KUMALO COMMUNAL LAND (60km, 37mi) (elev. 1300). Spectacular natural beauty.  
Points of interest: Matopos Nat'l Park, San rock art, rock formations, agricultural communal lands.  
Accommodations: local housing (K, B, L) Dinner: Zimbabwe cuisine
- DAY 05 Fri July 30 KUMALO COMMUNAL LAND. Spend the day sharing the lifestyle of rural schoolteachers.  
Points of interest: Sanjock art, rural community, rural school (education system)  
Accommodations: local housing (K, 13, L) Dinner: Zimbabwe cuisine
- DAY 06 Sat July 31 Matopos National Park to Bulawayo (60km, 37mi) to VICTORIA FALL (train dep. 1900, ar 0730)  
Return to Bulawayo and take the overnight train to Victoria Falls.  
Points of interest: Rhodes Monument, San rock art, Agr Research Stn, Wildlife Sanctuary.  
Accommodations: berth on train Dinner: restaurant
- DAY 07 Sun Aug 01 VICTORIA FALLS (elev. 910m) We are scheduled to arrive early and there should be plenty of time to explore the national park and take a Zambezi River canoe excursion.  
Points of interest: Victoria Falls NP, Zambezi River, wildlife, traditional music & dancing, Zambia  
Accommodations: cabin (E, Sh, T) Dinner: pizza delivery
- DAY 08 Mon Aug 02 VICTORIA FALLS White-water raft Zambezi River, then watch the video replay in the evening.  
Points of interest: Zambezi gorge, bird, geology, and crocodiles  
Accommodations: cabin (E, Sh, T) Dinner: cafe
- DAY 09 Tue Aug 03 Victoria Falls to HWANGE (105km, 65mi) (elev. 700m) We eat a hearty breakfast and start early.  
Points of interest: craft sellers, national forest lands, rural settlements, coalmines, and sometimes wildlife.  
Accommodations: hotel (E, scSh, scT) Dinner: hotel
- DAY 10 Wed Aug 04 Hwange to DETE (70km, 44mi) (elev. 1050m) Start with a beautiful morning ride and end with an afternoon game drive (by car). Be extremely cautious when you meet wildlife - it's wild!  
Points of interest: national forests, communal land, wildlife, game drive in Hwange National Park  
Accommodations: cabin (E, Sh, T) Dinner: restaurant
- DAY 11 Thu Aug 05 Dete to SIANZYUNDU (103km, 64mi) Long a backwater, rural development is recent here.  
Points of interest: villages of Nambyia and BaTonga people, old tin mine  
Accommodations: guest house (E, Sh, T) Dinner: guest house
- DAY 12 Fri Aug 06 Sianzyundu to BINGA (73km, 46mi) The long ride is rewarded with sunset from a hot springs.  
Points of interest: BaTonga people, lifestyle and crafts.  
Accommodations: hotel (E, Sh, T) Dinner: hotel
- DAY 13 Sat Aug 07 Binga to HARARE (by bus, 340mi) The long bus trip starts in the wee hours of the morning.  
Points of interest: mining and agriculture in Zimbabwe's midlands.  
Accommodations: hotel (E, scSh, scT) Dinner: restaurant
- DAY 14 Sun Aug 08 Program end with breakfast.